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1 1. (currently amended) A method of providing continuing medical education
2 credit to a first physician for a consultation between the first physician and a second
3 physician, the first and second physicians being coupled via a telecommunications system
4 to an intermediary having a processor and a storage device to which the processor has
5 access, the method comprising the steps of:

6 receiving a request for a consultation from the first physician via the
7 telecommunications system at the processor of the intermediary, the processor of the
8 intermediary being programmed to manage and record the consultation between the first
9 physician and the second physician, the processor of the intermediary storing the request
10 in the storage device;

11 receiving by the processor of the intermediary a selection of the second physician
12 made by a staff physician in the intermediary ~~of the second physician~~, the second
13 physician having an expertise in a specialty in which the consultation is requested by the
14 first physician;

15 sending by the processor of the intermediary the stored request to the selected
16 second physician via the telecommunications system;

17 receiving by the processor of the intermediary a comment made with regard to the
18 consultation via the telecommunications system from the selected second physician and
19 the processor of the intermediary storing the comment;

20 providing by the processor of the intermediary the stored comment from the
21 selected second physician to the first physician via the telecommunications system;

22 on conclusion of the consultation, an accreditation module of the
23 processor of the intermediary recording information concerning the consultation in a
24 continuing medical education database accessible to the processor, the information being
25 associated with the first physician; and

26 creating, by the accreditation module, an accreditation report for the first
27 physician from the information in the continuing medical education database, the
28 accreditation report comprising a certification of the continuing medical education credit
29 earned by the first physician from participation in the consultation.

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1 2. (currently amended) The method of providing continuing medical education
2 credit set forth in claim 1 wherein the method further comprises the steps of:
3 retrieving by the processor of the intermediary instructional material relevant to
4 the comment and the consultation selected by the staff physician from an information
5 data base to which the processor has access; and
6 providing the instructional material to the first physician via the
7 telecommunications system.

1 3. (previously amended) The method of providing continuing medical education
2 credit set forth in claim 2 wherein the method further comprises the steps of:
3 providing by the accreditation module an examination based on at least the
4 instructional material to the first physician via the telecommunications system;
5 receiving at the accreditation module answers for the examination from the first
6 physician via the telecommunications system; and
7 grading by the accreditation module the received answers, the first physician
8 being entitled to the medical education credit if the first physician passes the
9 examination.

1 4. (previously amended) The method of providing continuing medical education
2 credit set forth in claim 1 wherein the method further comprises the steps of:
3 providing by the accreditation module via the telecommunications system an
4 examination based on at least the comment to the first physician;
5 receiving at the accreditation module answers for the examination from the first
6 physician; and
7 grading by the accreditation module the received answers, the first physician
8 being entitled to the medical education credit if the first physician passes the
9 examination.